

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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DRAFTED BY EUR/IB:AWLUKENS:MS

APPROVED BY EUR - ARTHUR A. HARTMAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

ALL NATO CAPITALS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 069164

E O. 11652:GDS

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TAGS: PFOR, PO, SP

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR ALBA'S CALL ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY
HARTMAN

1. SPANISH AMB. ALBA CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY
HARTMAN 25 MARCH FOR "TOUR D'HORIZON." AFTER DISCUSSION
OF IMPLICATION OF KING FAISAL'S DEATH, ALBA ASKED IF
GENEVA CONFERENCE WOULD SOON BE CALLED TO TAKE UP ARAB-
ISRAELI PROBLEM. HARTMAN REPLIED THAT APPROVAL OF BOTH US
AND USSR WERE REQUIRED IF CONFERENCE IS TO BE CALLED.

2. AFTER BRIEF DISCUSSION OF EUROPEAN ECONOMIC PROBLEMS,
ALBA ASKED ABOUT PORTUGUESE SITUATION. HE THEN BROUGHT
OUT CABLE FROM MADRID, WHICH QUOTED UPI DESPATCH DENYING
ANY SPANISH INVOLVEMENT IN "PORTUGUESE LIBERATION ARMY"
(ELP). ALBA ASKED THAT USG BELIEVE GOS DENIAL AS CARRIED
BY UPI, RATHER THAN ALLEGATIONS HE ATTRIBUTED TO
WASHINGTON POST.

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3. HARTMAN SAID THAT THE PORTUGUESE HAD NAMED SEVERAL PEOPLE WHO WERE SUPPOSEDLY EX-MERCENARIES, INCLUDING ONE "MORGAN" BUT THAT WE HAD NO EVIDENCE OF ANY KIND RELATING TO THE SO-CALLED ELP. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THIS TYPE OF ALLEGATION SEEMED TO BE IN CURRENT FASHION IN LISBON

AND THAT A NUMBER HAD BEEN MADE WITHOUT ANY FOUNDATION AGAINST AMB. CARLUCCI. HARTMAN THOUGHT THAT SUCH CHARGES WERE OFTEN MADE IN SUCH A WAY AS TO IMPLICATE THE PORTUGUESE MODERATES AND THUS TO LIMIT THE FREE EXPRESSION OF THE PEOPLE.

4. HARTMAN WENT ON TO POINT OUT THAT ELECTIONS WILL BE IMPORTANT IF THEY ARE ABLE TO SHOW THAT THE NON-COMMUNISTS HAVE STRONG SUPPORT WITHIN THE ELECTORATE. HE POINTED OUT IN THIS REGARD THAT WE ARE WORRIED THAT THE ELECTIONS WILL BE RIGGED OR EVEN CANCELLED. HARTMAN THEN NOTED THAT AMB. CARLUCCI HAD BEEN IN TO SEE PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES TO EXPRESS OUR CONCERN AT THE SITUATION AND OUR HOPE THAT FREE ELECTIONS WOULD TAKE PLACE.

5. ALBA THEN NOTED THAT HE HAD READ PRESS ACCOUNTS OF AMB. STABLER'S ADDRESS IN MADRID, IN WHICH HE ALLEGEDLY SAID THAT USG WISHED TO SEE SPAIN JOIN EC-9 AND NATO. HARTMAN ASKED, IN THIS REGARD, IF OPINION HAD CHANGED IN SPAIN CONCERNING RELATIONSHIPS WITH THOSE TWO BODIES. ALBA REPLIED THAT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE EEC WERE AT AN IMPASSE BUT THAT GOS PLANNED CHANGE ITS APPROACH SOMEWHAT. ALBA SAID THAT EC-9 COMPLAINED ABOUT REGIME IN SPAIN BUT THAT THIS HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IMPORTS OF SPANISH ORANGES. HE NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN A WORSE FIGHT IN BRUSSELS ITSELF WHEN THE FARMERS STRUCK THERE. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT FORMER MIN COMMERCE FERNANDEZ CUESTA ABOUT TO BE NAMED HEAD OF SPANISH MISSION TO EEC.

6. ALBA THEN NOTED "PRO-SPANISH STATEMENT" BY NATO SYG LUNS. HARTMAN REPLIED THAT LUNS HAD ALWAYS FELT THAT WAY, BUT NOW SENTIMENT IN GENERAL WAS HEADING

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IN SAME DIRECTION. HE WONDERED, IN LIGHT OF PORTUGUESE CRISIS, IF OTHER NATO MEMBERS WOULD NOW MOVE MORE QUICKLY. ALBA THOUGHT PORTUGUESE CRISIS COULD PLAY ROLE AND ALLUDED TO PORTUGUESE STRATEGIC POSITION AS WELL AS ITS HISTORIC TIES WITH UK.

7. ALBA WENT ON TO NOTE THAT WHEN HE HAD BEEN SPANISH AMBASSADOR IN BRUSSELS, HE HAD HAD CLOSE RELATIONS WITH

BOTH BROSIO AND GOODPASTER AND HAD AS A RESULT INVITED DIEZ-ALEGRIA, THEN HEAD OF SPANISH JOINT CHIEFS, FOR A VISIT. LATER ALBA SAID THAT A SPANISH MILITARY ATTACHE HAD BEEN ASSIGNED ON HIS STAFF AT BRUSSELS TO KEEP CONTACT WITH SHAPE BUT THAT HE (ALBA) HAD LEFT BEFORE HE COULD HAVE HIM INTRODUCED AROUND. HARTMAN SAID THAT HE WOULD BE SEEING GEN. HAIG THIS WEEK AND WOULD

MENTION TO HIM THE UTILITY OF NAMING SOMEONE ON HIS STAFF WHO COULD KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE SPANISH MIL ATTACHE.

8. FINALLY, ALBA BROUGHT UP FACT THAT RAFAEL CALVO SERER (FORMER MONARCHIST NOW AFFILIATED WITH PCE SEC GEN CARRILLO IN JUNTA DEMOCRATICA) WAS IN WASHINGTON AND INTERVIEWING NUMBER OF PEOPLE ON HILL AND ELSEWHERE. ALBA SAID SERER WAS PEDDLING BIZARRE SUGGESTION THAT HE (SERER) WOULD SOON RETURN TO MADRID, GET THROWN IN JAIL, AND AS RESULT SET OFF GENERAL STRIKE WHICH WOULD PARALYZE COUNTRY AND BRING ABOUT FALL OF ARIAS GOVT. ALBA SUGGESTED THAT DEPT SHOULD NOT RECEIVE SERER. HARTMAN SAID WE HAD NO INTENTION OF SO DOING. ALBA ENDED BY SAYING THAT SERER HAD ONCE BEEN FINANCED BY OPUS DEI BUT HAD LOST THEIR MONEY IN NEWSPAPER OPERATION AND HAD SINCE THEN GONE OFF DEEP END TRAVELLING AROUND WORLD AND PLAYING INTO HANDS OF COMMUNISTS. KISSINGER

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